

In re Appln. of Savicki, Alan F.  
Application No. 10/049,319  
Attorney Docket No. 492.216

### Remarks

#### *The Pending Claims*

Currently pending are claims 1-17. By this response, claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

#### *Summary of the Claim Rejections*

Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolmeier et al. (US 5,871,281) in view of Herrington et al. (US 5,020,194). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolmeier et al. (US 5,871,281) in view of Herrington et al. (US 5,020,194) as applied to claims 1 and 9, and further in view of Porchia et al. (US 5,664,299). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stolmeier et al. (US 5,871,281) in view of Herrington et al. (US 5,020,194) as applied to claims 1 and 9, and further in view of Herrington et al. (US 5,007,143).

#### *Discussion of the Claim Amendments*

The examiner's helpful comments under the **Response to Arguments** heading of the Office Action dated 3/30/2005 are noted and appreciated. Independent claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended so that the first length is also a constant length while being continuous and spanning the entire longitudinal x-axis of the first fastening strip. As indicated by the examiner, the proposed amended claims now recite structure fully commensurate with applicant's previously submitted arguments and should result in allowance.

### Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone

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conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Finally, while no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 03 2270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 14, 2005

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